COD Processing Update

May 11, 2022

Announcements

COD System Maintenance May 14–15, 2022 (5/10/22)

Federal Student Aid will conduct system maintenance activities on May 14–15, 2022. The impact to COD System availability and processing is provided below. In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable during the regular Sunday morning maintenance period from 3–11 a.m. Eastern time (ET).

COD System Maintenance

From 8 p.m. ET on Saturday, May 14, 2022, until 11 a.m. ET on Sunday, May 15, 2022—

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the **COD website**.

- Users will not be able to access the COD Reports area of the **COD website**.

- Batches submitted by schools via the SAIG will be held.

Note: If batches are submitted during the SAIG outage period (3–11 a.m. ET), schools will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable, and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes these important activities.

Additional 2020–21 Direct Loan Program Year Closeout Information (4/26/22)

On April 26, 2022, Federal Student Aid posted the second in a 3-part series of Direct Loan closeout announcements that provides closeout information for the 2020-21 Direct Loan Program Year. For more information, refer to the **Electronic Announcement** on the Knowledge Center.

First 2021–22 Pell Grant Deobligation Due to Verification Status "W" (4/27/22)

On April 26, 2022, Federal Student Aid deobligated 2021–22 Award Year Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) disbursements that did not have a verification status updated from "W" to a valid status of "V" or "S." As noted in the warning message that Federal Student Aid sent to affected schools on April 12 2022, these disbursements were considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount ($0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. This deobligation affected Pell Grant disbursements at approximately 153 schools.

A school affected by the deobligation will receive or see the following information:

- Receive a PGTX (PGTX22OP message class) file in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease

- Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (CRND22OP message class/ND document type)
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the decrease unless there are other offsetting increase adjustments
- See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the reduced disbursements

Note: This deobligation process will not affect a school that did not have students with a verification status of "W" just prior to April 26, 2022.

A school affected by the deobligation should carefully review the information below.

Verification Completed or Not Required

If verification has been completed as required or is not required and a school believes a student's 2021–22 disbursement should not have been reduced to zero, the school must complete the following steps in this order:

1) The school must send an update to the verification status of the award, and the COD System must accept the update.

2) Once the verification status is updated to "V" or "S," the school may submit the actual disbursement (Disbursement Release Indicator or DRI equals "True") for the correct amount to the COD System for processing.

   The school can perform steps 1 and 2 above in the same submission to the COD System if reported in the same student record.

Verification Deadline

Some of the 2021–22 disbursements that were reduced to zero ($0.00) may have been for students who are still within the allowable timeframe for submitting verification documentation/completing the verification process by the deadlines specified in the "2021–2022 Award Year Deadline Dates" published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2021.

If a school needs additional time to complete verification for an individual student in accordance with the allowable timeframe in the *Federal Register* notice, the school may resubmit a disbursement record with a value greater than zero ($0.00) until Sept. 27, 2022. After Sept. 27, 2022, the COD System will no longer accept "W" as a valid verification status code for 2021–22 Pell Grant awards.

If you have any questions regarding the 2021–22 Pell Grant deobligation of disbursements due to verification status "W," contact the COD School Relations Center.

RESOLVED: March 2022 COD System Release – Post-Implementation Issues (5/2/22)

On March 27, 2022, Federal Student Aid implemented additional COD System functionality to support the processing for the 2022–23 award year. After major system releases such as this one, Federal Student Aid routinely informs the higher education community if post-implementation issues arise.

Federal Student Aid has resolved or is working to resolve a few post-implementation issues. These issues are summarized below along with the current status for each. As issues are resolved, or as additional issues arise, they will be reported here. For ease of reporting, the newest items will appear at the end of the list.

Post-Implementation Issue Summary

1. **[RESOLVED] Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) Layout Change for 2021–22 and Prior:** As a result of the transition to the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), Federal Student Aid added

the UEI as a new field to several reports, including the ESOA (for both the Federal Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant programs). The UEI is specific to a school not an award year, so the field was added to the ESOA layout for all award years; however, most software vendors and schools were only expecting the layout change to apply to the 2022–23 award year and forward. As a result, schools were not able to import the ESOAs for 2021–22 and prior.

On March 31, 2022, Federal Student Aid reversed the changes made to the ESOA layout, so that it matches the version for the 2021–22 award year and prior. On May 1, 2022, Federal Student Aid reinstated the updated ESOA layout for all award years. Operational guidance has been provided in an April 28, 2022, Electronic Announcement.

2. **[RESOLVED] COD System-Generated Responses Sent in Wrong Schema:** On Monday, March 28, 2022, schools received system-generated responses in COD Schema version 4.0e instead of 5.0a. This issue was resolved, and system-generated responses received on March 29, 2022, were in COD Schema version 5.0a. If a school needs assistance with an incorrect response (from Monday, 3/28), it should contact the COD School Relations Center.

    a. **[Related Issue – RESOLVED] Relationship to Student Tag Not Populated in Direct PLUS Application Responses (message class: CRSP):** Related to the system-generated responses issue above, on Monday, March 28, 2022, Direct PLUS Application responses (for Direct PLUS Loans for parents) did not include a valid value in the Relationship to Student tag. The issue was resolved, and Direct PLUS Application responses sent on March 29, 2022, included a valid value in the tag, if applicable. If a school needs assistance with an incorrect response (from Monday, 3/28), it should contact the COD School Relations Center.

3. **[RESOLVED] Batches for 2021–22 Award Year Rejected Incorrectly for Invalid Schema:** On March 28, 2022, and part of March 29, 2022, a small number of batches (fewer than 20) were sent for the 2021–22 award year using COD Schema version 5.0a, but those records were incorrectly rejected for invalid schema. This issue is resolved, and batches processed after March 29, 2022, are being evaluated using the correct schema version. If a school needs assistance with a rejected batch, it should contact the COD School Relations Center.

4. **[RESOLVED] Banking Information Incorrectly Updated for Some School Locations:** Federal Student Aid determined that an issue within our financial processing systems was incorrectly triggering a change to banking information for some school locations. The banking information change affected schools that have a different Payee UEI when compared to the Grantee UEI (typically this occurs with additional locations), and occurred between April 1–8, 2022.

    On April 8, 2022, Federal Student Aid implemented a temporary fix for the issue to prevent further banking information changes, and then fully resolved the issue on April 18, 2022. In addition, Federal Student Aid worked with G5 to correct the banking information for affected schools. If a school continues to find an issue with its banking information, it should contact G5 at 1-888-336-8930 or via email at **edcaps.user@ed.gov** for further assistance.

Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience as it identified and corrected post-implementation issues. For further assistance with COD System processing or with any of the issues listed above, schools should contact the COD School Relations Center.

Revised 2022–23 Pell Grant Payment & Disb Schedules Posted (3/28/22)

In Dear Colleague Letter GEN-22-04, published on the Knowledge Center on March 24, 2022, Federal Student Aid provides the community with the revised Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement

Schedules for the 2022–23 award year for full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, and less-than-half-time students. All 2022–23 Pell Grant awards must be based on the schedules attached to the GEN-22-04.

As explained in a March 18, 2022 Electronic Announcement, due to development and timing constraints, the March 2022 COD System release included the 2022–23 Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules published in Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-22-03 on Jan. 31, 2022, not the revised 2022–23 Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules. In a forthcoming electronic announcement, Federal Student Aid will provide information about the operational implementation of the revised schedules in its systems, including the COD System. **If schools have flexibility with their system and processing timelines, we highly encourage them to refrain from submitting Pell Grant records to the COD System until after the revised schedules have been implemented in the COD System.**

Current Issues

Campus-Based

There are no Campus-Based-related issues at this time.

Direct Loans

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

Grants

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

Reminders

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System

We remind schools and third-party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The email addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Campus-Based Financial Aid Officer, Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer, and Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Having current contact information for these key staff is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more detail about updating school contact information or the Direct Loan or Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, refer to the **Dec. 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement** posted on the Knowledge Center. The CampusBased Financial Aid Officer information can be updated directly from the "School Information" page within the Campus-Based System on the COD website.

How to Access Information from the COD Website File Share

As a reminder, Federal Student Aid shares student-specific information through uploaded files via the COD website. We upload these files to the File Share section of the "File Share & Messages" page of the COD website. Authorized school users are able to view and download the customized documents from the COD website. Schools can access the "File Share & Messages" page by completing the following steps:

1. Log in to the COD website.

2. Click on the "School" tab.

3. Enter the required school identifiers and click on "Search." This will open the "School Summary Information" page.

 4. Click on the "File Share/Messages" link on the left-hand side of the page to open the "File Share & Messages" page.